

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSM-03
HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 /103 W
-----106107 031806Z /46

O 031741Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6261
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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AMMAN FOR USDEL

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PBOR PEPR EG IS XF
SUBJECT: PEACE PROCESS COVERAGE MARCH 3
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REF: CAIRO 06855

SUMMARY. OFFICIALLY INSPIRED REPORTS ON PEACE PROCESS
TRACE LACK OF PROGRESS TO ISRAELI MANEUVERING,
SETTLEMENTS POLICY, AND REJECTION OF WITHDRAWAL AND
PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. AHRAH HINTS SOFTENING OF GOE

CONDITION FOR RECONVENING OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE. EGYPTIANS REPORTEDLY TOLD ATHERTON U.S. MUST ADHERE TO ASWAN PRINCIPLES IN TALKS WITH BEGIN. COMMENTARY CRITICIZED BEGIN WHILE TREATMENT OF SETTLEMENT ISSUE BOOSTED WEIZMAN IMAGE ALTHOUGH ISRAELI POLICY AGAIN ROUNDLY CONDEMNED. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS FEATURED REPORT THAT "PERSONAL, VERBAL" MESSAGE FROM SADAT TO BEGIN DELIVERED BY ATHERTON. BEGIN QUOTED HE WILL FURNISH ATHERTON WITH ANSWER FOR SADAT BUT REFUSED TO COMMENT ON CONTENTS OF SADAT MESSAGE.

2. AHAM LEADING FRONT PAGE REPORT SOURCED TO "EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATIC SOURCES", SAYS CAIRO TOLD ATHERTON THAT LACK OF PROGRESS THUS FAR IS RESULT OF ISRAELI STAND. EGYPT BELIEVES ISRAELI ADHERENCE TO SETTLEMENT POLICY, REJECTION OF PRINCIPLES OF WITHDRAWAL AND PALESTINIAN RIGHTS ARE OBSTACLES TO ATHERTON MISSION AND DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. EGYPT AFFIRMED THAT "TIMING" OF ISRAELI STATEMENTS ON SETTLEMENT QUESTION "UNACCEPTABLE". ACCORDING AHAM, EGYPT MADE CLEAR THAT RESUMPTION OF POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMITTEES CANNOT TAKE PLACE "UNLESS PROGRESS IS MADE TOWARD DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES."

3. U.S. ROLE. AHAM LEARNED CAIRO INFORMED ATHERTON IT EXPECTS USG TO ASSERT EFFORTS IN COMING STAGE, WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WILL START WITH BEGIN-CARTER TALKS. PRINCIPLES WHICH PRESIDENT CARTER DECLARED IN ASWAN MUST BE MADE CLEAR DURING BEGIN TALKS, SO THAT THESE PRINCIPLES "MAY BECOME THE BASIS OF THE AMERICAN STAND WHICH WILL BE CONVEYED TO ISRAELI PRIME MINISTER."

4. SETTLEMENTS. GOE PREFERENCE FOR WEIZMAN OVER BEGIN SURFACED AGAIN. AHAM GAVE WEIZMAN IMAGE ADDITIONAL LIFT WITH REPORT THAT HE HAS ORDERED HALT TO CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SETTLEMENT IN RAFAH AREA. SETTLEMENT HAD BEEN CONFIRMED BY COMMITTEE HEADED BY SHARON, WHO REPORTEDLY SURPRISED BY WEIZMAN DECISION. HAVING MATTERS BOTH WAYS, HOWEVER, GUMHURIYYA EDITORIALIZED THAT ISRAEL USING SETTLEMENTS ISSUE TO DISTRACT FROM QUESTION OF TOTAL WITHDRAWAL AND HOODWINK EGYPTIANS INTO BELIEVING THEY HAVE WON SOMETHING WHEN ISRAEL DECLARES HALT TO CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW SETTLEMENT. EGYPTIANS WILL NOT FALL INTO TRAP, "AND WORLD REALIZES AS WELL AS WE MEANING OF THIS HACKNEYED RUSE."

5. MORE CRITICISM OF BEGIN. AKHBAR COMMENTED THAT BEGIN UNDERSTANDS OBJECTIVES OF PEACE INITIATIVE, BUT

HAS BEEN INTERESTED ONLY IN CREATING PERIPHERAL PROBLEM,
AND ENDLESS DIGRESSIONS TO SAP PEACE EFFORTS AND SOUR
ATMOSPHERE.

6. COMMENT: OFFICIALLY INSPIRED AHRAH REPORT THAT
PROGRESS TOWARD DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES MUST BE MADE
BEFORE POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMITTEES CAN RECONVENE
HINTS AT SOFTENING OF GOE POSITION WHICH HERETOFORE
HAS BEEN THAT DECLARATION MUST BE SIGNED BEFORE POLITICAL
COMMITTEE COULD RECONVENE. EILTS

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Draft Date: 03 mar 1978
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